## **EXHIBIT A**

IN THE COURT OF CHANCERY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

CITY OF MONROE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, derivatively on behalf of TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY FOX, INC.,

Plaintiff,

: C.A. No. V.

: 2017-0833-AGB

RUPERT MURDOCH, LACHLAN MURDOCH, JAMES MURDOCH, CHARLES G. CAREY, DAVID F. DEVOE, RODERICK I. EDDINGTON, ROGER S. SILBERMAN, JACQUES A. NASSER, JAMES W. BREYER, JEFFREY W. UBBEN, VIET DINH, DELPHINE ARNAULT, TIDJANE THIAME, AND THE ESTATE OF ROGER AILES,

Defendants,

and

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY FOX, INC.,

Nominal Defendant.

Chancery Courtroom No. 12A Leonard L. Williams Justice Center 500 North King Street Wilmington, Delaware Friday, February 9, 2018 2:05 p.m.

BEFORE: HON. ANDRE G. BOUCHARD, Chancellor

PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT AND FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES AND THE COURT'S RULING

CHANCERY COURT REPORTERS Leonard L. Williams Justice Center

500 North King Street Wilmington, Delaware 19801 (302) 255-0521

Obviously, the settlement is a

- 1 | \$90 million recovery, one of the largest in Delaware,
- 2 | including one of the largest derivative case
- 3 recoveries ever and we think the largest in a pure
- 4 oversight case.
- 5 THE COURT: All covered by D&O
- 6 insurance. Is that right?
- 7 MR. LEBOVITCH: Yes. And we think
- 8 even more important than the monetary recovery is what
- 9 | we think is unprecedented and really exceptional
- 10 | governance changes, and I want to spend some time on
- 11 that.
- There have been no objections filed
- 13 previously, and based on a survey of the room, we
- 14 don't believe any objectors have shown up either on
- 15 | the settlement or on the fee petition.
- I want to start with maybe just a very
- 17 | brief big-picture comment and explain that there's a
- 18 lot of people here who worked hard on this case. And
- 19 | it's a privilege to practice here in Delaware in the
- 20 | Chancery Court. And if people do it long enough,
- 21 | they'll find a case that they feel like it matters.
- 22 | It's going to be in the Wall Street Journal. It's
- 23 | shaping the way deals are done. But it's really
- 24 | economic matters. And we feel good about it but

that's it. It's really rare to have a case where you 1 2 get involved in it and you find yourself kind of 3 involved in history and something that's about so much 4 more than just the economic issues. 5 And here, from the origin of this 6 case, what happened, frankly, is disclosures. You 7 know, the filing of the Gretchen Carlson complaint led 8 to a focus on Roger Ailes. 9 And the first instinct that many 10 people would have is, well, that's not really a 11 Delaware issue. And we touch on this in the papers, 12 that, historically, there's really no precedent in the 13 law for this. There's one case that deals with sexual 14 harassment. That was White versus Panic. And what I 15 knew right up front is I believe from my own knowledge 16 that that's just a dismissal of a plaintiff who didn't 17 do a 220. But there's no precedent for how someone 18 would pursue a derivative claim arising out of sexual 19 harassment by even one executive. 20 This started -- and I do want to give 21 a little bit of credit up front --22 THE COURT: This ultimately is a

Yes.

MR. LEBOVITCH:

Caremark-type claim. Right?

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And what happened is, from the beginning, my partner, Max Berger, who doesn't normally get involved in saying, Hey, you should bring this case or go investigate this or that, he, I think, did see something and saw that this was more than just Roger Ailes. And I think his perspective is -- was and I think now surely is -- that boards didn't get involved in these issues, because if there's someone who is acting inappropriately, it's like deviant, and you can write it off as deviant and say, This is just not our job. And he said, This is something that's bigger. And there's a historical context here, and kind of "The Times They Are A-Changin'." And so we started an investigation. We started that investigation, and it was in July. It was pretty early on. It was July 29th of 2016. And there was about a six-month stretch in that case where we were pursuing a 220. Mr. Varallo was on the other side of it, and there was a lot of back and forth, a lot of fighting about documents and the scope of the documents and whatnot. And then we had essentially a breakdown at the end of 2016 where we said, Okay,

they're not giving us more documents. We don't -- we're not happy. We think there should be more.

And then we get to early 2017, and that's when this case really took a different turn. It was just fortuitous. And I touched on it in the declaration. We had gone to our client, we had a 220 complaint written, and we were getting a verification to file a 220 complaint, and I happened to see an old friend of mine from Skadden who is now a senior M&A lawyer at Fox for Twenty-First Century Fox. And I just happened to see him in a restaurant and I said, What are you guys doing? And I know you're litigious, but this is different.

And he listened, and we had a long conversation in the middle of that restaurant. And I knew that he reports to Gerson Zweifach, who is general counsel. And he listened and listened. I didn't know what was going to come of it. And then it was about a week later, as we were much closer to filing what would be a very public and it was I believe like a 60- or 70-page 220 complaint, I got a phone call during a break in a class cert. hearing I was doing in California, got a phone call from Mr. Varallo, and we had a lengthy conversation.

And it's really -- it was the 1 2 jawboning you would expect about what kind of case 3 this would be. And, Oh, we've given you the 4 documents. But there was also a kind of getting-real 5 moment as well that is a credit, I think, to him. 6 spoke and said, Well, how would this -- if there is a 7 220, what would happen? And then if it led to 8 litigation, what would happen? And this bled over to our many 9 10 conversations that, you know, can't happen if people 11 are too venomous and too ideological. And I think 12 Mr. Varallo was not shy telling us the problems we 13 would have in the case, but at the same time, I think 14 was listening and professional about why his clients 15 might have problems in the case. And that's how the 16 praeses started. 17 We filed a 220, and we were 18 litigating, taking interviews. So we're getting, now, 19 documents. We didn't file a 220. We gave it to them 20 privately. That led to us doing some private 21 interviews and then saying, You know what? There is a 22 case here. And we sent them a private complaint, and 23 we said, We think we have a basis for a complaint but 24 do you want to continue this process?

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And over time, that led to an agreement to mediate. And we retained former judge Layn Phillips, who is probably one of the most prominent mediators out there, and we got ready to mediate this very unusual case, knowing that we were doing private discovery but it would be a completely different picture if everything was out in the public and if we're deposing directors, you know, in the spotlight, essentially. And over time, our group grew. people had sent 220 demands to the company. And, you know, I want to just briefly commend people because there's a fair amount, sometimes, of cynicism about how things work amongst plaintiffs' firms, and sometimes I even express some of that cynicism, but this was a case, just as we started it, and we felt that there is something more than just some average derivative suit here. This is important. And really, I think everyone, they bought into that. They agreed. And it was great cooperation by a dozen firms working together. Great cooperation. There was a leadership, understood, but people really worked together and acted as a team for a very important cause. And a lot of the firms

are here, represented, because people are very proud
of what came out of our efforts, which is this
settlement.

And the settlement negotiations, what you had was the mediation process that we lay out in our papers. You also had direct meetings, direct negotiations. We, even before having the mediation, sent over a demand relating to what became the Council. And we had direct meetings to talk about what's right and what's wrong and what's going to be best for the company. And I think that through a process that had a lot of fights, a lot of disagreements, both about the case and about the settlement terms, we came to something special.

Before I get to and really focus on the settlement terms, I want to highlight that through this unusual process, the parties entered into a couple of stipulations. And really, the stipulations were because at all times, we were all experimenting with this process but didn't know how it could break down. And in fact, everyone had the ability to blow it up.

And we entered stipulations relating to discovery. We were able to interview Gerson

Zweifach thanks to a stipulation that we put in. And that's how we learned a lot more about what happened.

We put in a stipulation about demand futility early in the process so that once they had a complaint, all agreed, that's the date. Because if this continued for a while, we don't want the board to change and have some argument --

(Overlapping speakers)

THE COURT: -- board changes.

MR. LEBOVITCH: So in the end, we, over the summer, had three mediation sessions. The first one was a bust, it seemed, but it was very substantive. And Your Honor has been in mediations, and sometimes it's just kind of back and forth on numbers.

There were presentations made, and as Your Honor could imagine, I'm not going to go into the details, but you can imagine that questions about White versus Panic and how broad that case is comes up. Questions about demand futility, even if Fox is a controlled company, how would that play out. The Murdochs' role here with Ailes and Fox News.

Questions about proving liability of the board if you go forward and proving liability of the Murdochs even

1 if a claim just went forward against the Murdochs and,
2 eventually, the Ailes estate.

And then you have damages. You have a situation where there are very real damages, quantifiable, there are unquantified damages, and there is also harm that you couldn't know yet, you couldn't know the number yet. But we were able to articulate about \$200 million worth of kind of reasonably pursuable damages, and --

THE COURT: How did you get to that number?

MR. LEBOVITCH: Well, it was a bunch of different components. It was the payments of severance to people who we contend should have been removed for cause far earlier. It was the settlements that had already been paid to victims.

Now, there was more litigation that emerged after the Carlson complaint, but I believe the number when we were negotiating was \$55 million had already been paid out as settlements.

We had payments on keyman contracts.

We made the argument that the board had allowed Roger

Ailes to, in a way, insulate himself or sabotage Fox

News by putting in the contracts of key talent a

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keyman provision tied to him, so if he left, the
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    talent at the company could leave as well and get big
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    severance payouts. So it was a defensive parachute.
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                    THE COURT: A new form of proxy put.
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    All right.
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                    MR. LEBOVITCH: It could be. And it
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    wasn't the scale of what we saw in the Yahoo! case
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    where every employee gets a parachute.
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                    THE COURT: Right.
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                    MR. LEBOVITCH: But the point if the
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    talent from a media company leaves, the dollars isn't
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    what does it but the talent has incentive to leave.
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    That's no more. That no longer exists, thanks to the
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    settlement.
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                    And maybe that's a good seque to focus
    on the settlement itself, unless Your Honor has
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    questions about the process.
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                    THE COURT: I do have a couple
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    questions.
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                    150 was the number you were saying you
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    sort of pegged as your -- as the exposure here?
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                    MR. LEBOVITCH: 200.
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                    THE COURT: I just remember in reading
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    the brief, frankly, it struck me as low that that
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would be the range, because there would be so many tentacles to the thing.

Did you find in the course of negotiating over the dollars that by virtue of any settlements that had been entered, for example, with the Ailes estate or with O'Reilly, that you were precluded from going after them to get a financial contribution?

MR. LEBOVITCH: No, we were not precluded from going after the Ailes estate or -O'Reilly, I want to be careful, because Ailes -- the Ailes estate was involved in the process at the end.
I think that Fox -- my understanding is when Fox settled with the Ailes estate, Fox preserved its ability to have claims with the Ailes estate.

O'Reilly we viewed as damages. He wasn't an officer so we couldn't bring a derivative claim against O'Reilly other than we caused the company to go after O'Reilly. Our point really was, about the board there, is they should have fired him earlier. They shouldn't have renewed his contract. They should have had a contract that insulated him.

Oddly enough, his first contract, part of our complaint about it is they couldn't fire him

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for cause no matter how many people sued him unless
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    there was a final nonappealable judgment against him.
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    So I don't want to prejudice the company if they want
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    to go after him --
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                    THE COURT: He has his own protection,
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    I'm sure.
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                    MR. LEBOVITCH: He had his own
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    protection. And we blamed the board for allowing that
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    to happen. And part of the settlement is that can no
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    longer happen. A keyman provision at any dollar
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    amount is one of the specific items that's not a
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    matter of judgment for anyone.
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                    Because a lot of the settlement is
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    about the people that we put in place and the
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    structure that we put in place, which is the Council,
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    which is independent, that has phenomenal people on
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    it, and so they're going to have a lot of tools to
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    use.
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                    But to answer your question, we were
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    not precluded -- and the number, the 200 number, was
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    heavily contested, but we all realized that things
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    like the race discrimination class action is still
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    going on.
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                    THE COURT: It's just carved out.
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- Right? This is only derivative. The release only covers derivative claims.
- MR. LEBOVITCH: We're not settling anyone else's claims.

- We were able to quantify 200. Your Honor's instinct was fair. When we were negotiating, without going into too much detail, of course, we said, Yeah, you guys want to get ahead of this. You want to fix this. By the time we're at trial, the number may well be larger.
- That, itself, was a point of dispute, because, obviously, the company thinks they're going to win all their cases. We said, Clearly, you're going to have to do something about them. You might lose some. You might settle some. So the number would go higher than the 200.
- But it's not like they accepted that 200 was even the harm that could be attributed to the misconduct. Right? Because some of it was lost advertising revenue, things like that. We were bringing in everything that we could.
- But then even when you go further, if
  we had a trial in this case, the board, we would have
  to -- let's assume we got past demand futility. We

- 1 | would have to prove liability of, clearly, officers.
- 2 And that would help us, as we had some controlling
- 3 people who also are officers and may have fewer
- 4 defenses. But then you could have the board.
- If we prove liability, the question of
- 6 damages is, Okay, well, the company has had to pay out
- 7 200 million or 400 million. How much of that is
- 8 because the board didn't do its job versus, you know,
- 9 how much -- basically, what happened even if they were
- 10 doing their job. And there is no automatic strict
- 11 | liability for, you know, a breach of fiduciary duty
- 12 | where we can say, Well, you had to pay it out and
- 13 | that's it. Presumably, damages would be very
- 14 aggressively contested on all sides.
- 15 But taking it all into account, and
- 16 knowing that we were able to articulate 200, and that
- 17 | realistically, by the time of trial, the number would
- 18 | be higher -- but we did a lot of diligence on those
- 19 | pending lawsuits and whatnot. 90 million, it's
- 20 | 45 percent of the 200. And we think that in the world
- 21 of shareholder derivative cases, it's, we think,
- 22 pretty monumental.
- 23 So ... okay?
- THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

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MR. LEBOVITCH: So I just talked about the 90 million. I want to focus on the Council and the governance relief. And there's really two -- I think of what does governance mean? People use the word but don't think about what that means. I think that there is a corporate form, and everyone knows the corporate form has sort of structural kind of inefficiencies where people who are controlling the money, controlling the company, at times can act for their benefit per ways that aren't guided for the company, that aren't intended to benefit the company. So governance, to me, that means two things. There's hurdles and there's tools. Hurdles is something that's going to impede someone with an ill intent from getting their way at the expense of the company. And then there's tools. And this settlement, you know, kind of has a combination of those. And the tools have to be used by good people. Right? The outside directors, typically.

Here, we have hurdles put in place.

We have things that the company has agreed to put in place no matter what. Like the keyman provision, it would impede someone who attains power within the

- company from protecting themselves by giving out these keyman provisions. So that's a hurdle that we're not
- 3 leaving to chance.
- When we've done this, in the Pfizer
- 5 case, for example, we created a regulatory committee
- 6 of the board in the Pfizer litigation. We were
- 7 trusting the board there, but it was still under the
- 8 board's umbrella. That's not a controlled company.
- 9 And here, without trying to impugn the controllers, we
- 10 definitely felt that the fix here had to be
- 11 | sufficiently independent.
- 12 And so what we did is we had these
- 13 | hurdles that we put in place. That's part of the
- 14 governance. And then we had the tools. And the tools
- 15 | really is the creation of the Council and the
- 16 empowerment of the Council. Four of the six members
- 17 | are independent. We picked two and the company picked
- 18 two.
- THE COURT: That's already happened.
- 20 Right?
- MR. LEBOVITCH: That has happened.
- 22 | The two that we picked, one is former federal judge
- 23 | Barbara Jones and Sylvia Hewlett. The bios are in the
- 24 record. Barbara Jones was appointed by the Secretary

of Defense to chair the committee that looked at 1 2 harassment and discrimination in the military. And 3 Sylvia Hewlett -- and particularly, the company's 4 choices, these are stellar people. Brande Stellings 5 and Sylvia Hewlett are really the leaders in the field 6 of working with companies on how to deal with 7 diversity and inclusion issues, is the phrase that 8 they use now. And actually, technically, the Council 9 10 can't come into effect until Your Honor approves a 11 settlement, but I think showing the eagerness of the 12 company and the members to get started, we had a 13 meeting -- this is just referenced briefly in our 14 reply paper, but we had a meeting January 29th. And, 15 you know, I was lucky enough to attend the initial 16 part. Mr. Zweifach and the lawyers were there. Viet 17 Dinh, who is on the board, was involved. And we each 18 made initial presentations. 19 And the point I made to them that I 20 will share that really is what I was just touching on 21 is we're giving them tools and, really, they're stellar people, and this is now their expertise. And 22 23 they should have everything they need to make Fox News

go from -- and I know that they're not going to like

this -- from worst to first. That's really kind of the mission and objective here.

This is a company that had some serious problems. And we know the history since Roger Ailes. I mean, now we hear about Harvey Weinstein and Steve Wynn. So the concept of deviant men in absolute power is not unique, but the solution is. And really, we hope that it's emulated by other companies that find themselves facing these problems.

The committee excused all of us and they met for a lengthy period of time, and they're eager to get started. And so that's where that stands.

I don't know if Your Honor has other specifics about the Council. I'll highlight a couple.

THE COURT: I just read through the

papers a little while ago to go through the section that has all the components of the nonmonetary relief. And the thing I would be most interested just to hear, in case I didn't get it in my reading, is how information gets to the board.

I mean, I think I read through this and understand that there are certain meeting reporting relationships they all seem to go through.

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Well, I guess the Council meets with the corporate
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    governance committee periodically, but the chair,
    which is actually a Fox person, has the more frequent
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    contact with that committee.
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                    But the written reports, if I'm
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    reading it correctly, at least for the first two
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    years, go to the entire board. I just want to get
    confirmation of that.
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                    MR. LEBOVITCH: Yes.
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                     THE COURT: And then for the last
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    three years, I think they get it twice a year.
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                    MR. LEBOVITCH: It's the frequency
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    that changes.
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                     THE COURT: Which is important,
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    because especially when -- I think I was reading,
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    like, the reply paper or the submission from
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    Mr. Varallo, but all the things these people didn't
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    know, I think it's important that they actually have
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    to know.
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                    MR. LEBOVITCH: Yes.
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                    THE COURT: So elaborate a little bit
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    on that.
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                    MR. LEBOVITCH: That's a great
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question, Your Honor. It actually was a critical

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You could imagine, going into these negotiations, our position is, How could you not know? Of course you knew. And there were all these signs within the company that there is a broader problem. But their position is, Well, we didn't know. And in the litigation, there is always a risk they'd have to kind of justify that it wasn't that bad, which I am sure was a driver for them. The -- I'll call it the inside-outside component of the Council is really where your answer This is a majority independent committee -starts. THE COURT: Right. MR. LEBOVITCH: -- but we felt, collectively, through our process, that the best thing for this company is that the committee not be viewed as internal affairs. Right? They're not just

legitimacy of well-meaning management.

And Kevin Lord came in after all of this at Fox News and Thomas Gaissmaier came in at Twenty-First Century Fox. We met with them. We understand what was important to them. And the idea

outsiders who are investigating. They needed the

was, from the outset, they not only bring legitimacy

of the Council to the employees, which would encourage 1 2 interaction, but part of their job -- and I think it's 3 paragraph 15. I could pull it from there, but my 4 memory is 15 or 16. I also recently re-read it. 5 There is a long paragraph that talks about the 6 requirement that the Council can get information 7 through the chair from, you know, legal and from marketing and PR and whatnot. All of these different 8 9 divisions within the corporate structure, they are 10 mandated to provide information to the committee so 11 the committee can do its job. 12 So they have access to do their job 13 and they can then interact. They can create 14 information. And that's the data gathering, which is 15 a specialty of, I think, Ms. Stellings and 16 Ms. Hewlett. They are not just going to, you know, 17 talk about kind of highfalutin ideas. They get in and 18 they get the data for companies. It's what they do. 19 And they're going to get real-world information and 20 act based on that real-world information. And they 21 then report. Okay? 22 So they have regular access to the 23 chair of the nominating and governance committee.

They have, in the agreement, set meetings with the

THE COURT: Right, that committee, but

23 MR. LEBOVITCH: Okay. They're going

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not the board.

to meet with the whole committee and then they'll

report and provide the report to the board. And the committee report is made public.

THE COURT: I saw that.

MR. LEBOVITCH: And the feature --

THE COURT: You're getting a lot of

6 help here.

MR. LEBOVITCH: Maybe they think I'm

8 struggling.

The feature that's most important about the reporting, Your Honor, is the minority report. Because when you think about it, okay, what's to stop a controlled company or, you know, any company from just thwarting a council, no matter who you put on it?

And we didn't know who the company would put on it. We're very happy with who the company put on, but there was the prospect that there would be two people in management and two people who would fundamentally kind of just be loyal to someone other than the Council's cause.

We're very happy with who they put on, but we agreed upon and insisted that there be a minority report. That's even better than simply publishing a report alone, because now any member who

1 | doesn't like what's going on can issue a report.

And I think, Your Honor, sometimes setting those ground rules actually affects conduct and will deter a problem from emerging.

And the idea is that the prospect of one of these Council members publishing, publicly, a minority report on virtually any issue pretty much assures that the board will have to be educated about it and have to deal with it. Because there's a lot of negative consequences to, you know, whether it's Barbara Jones or Brande Stellings, publishing a report saying, I'm not getting cooperation from management. That's bad for the company. That's bad for management.

Knowing how management has been trying to deal with this now, having dealt so much with Mr. Varallo and Mr. Zweifach, I think it's extremely unlikely that they would willy-nilly overstep and invite such a minority report.

And so you've got that. And you've got five years of the Council being in place. If the board wants to do away with the Council, they have to explain publicly their reasoning.

THE COURT: I would like to explore

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that provision. Technically, tomorrow, the board
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    could terminate this, couldn't it? They might have to
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    do it publicly, but they could terminate it. Well,
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    help me out with paragraph 28.
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                    MR. LEBOVITCH: The term is five
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    years.
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                    THE COURT: Then what's it talking
    about, a decision to modify or terminate?
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                    MR. LEBOVITCH: I -- "... at the time
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    of the termination of this Agreement shall be made by
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    the board." So I think at the end of five years, and
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    I hope Mr. Varallo will agree with me, but at the end
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    of five years, if they don't continue it, they have to
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    publicly state --
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                    THE COURT: Is that how it works,
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    Mr. Varallo?
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                    MR. VARALLO: Your Honor, this isn't a
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    gotcha. We anticipate this being at least a
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    five-year --
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                    THE COURT: So the termination
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    language is just talking about post five years?
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                    MR. VARALLO: That's the way we read
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    it.
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                    THE COURT: When I read the brief, I
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read it the way I just articulated. And when I went 1 2 back to look at the language, it seemed absurd. would be, as a practical reality, pretty foolish to do 3 4 that, but I was just surprised. 5 All right. So you've got five years 6 for sure. You're putting the representation on the 7 record. MR. LEBOVITCH: We didn't get suckered 8 9 on that point, Your Honor, so we've got five years. 10 So we think this is going to work. 11 mean, that's the key. This is going to work. 12 something that can be replicated. 13 I already covered the risks to the 14 case. Your Honor, I'm sure, is very well-aware of the 15 hurdles that we would face in litigating the case. 16 And all I'll say on that was in the absence of 17 precedent, I think both parties had a situation where 18 we could jawbone each other, but no one really knew 19 how this trial would play out. We mentioned in the 20 papers we knew it would be a media circus, but beyond 21 that, we would be on unchartered grounds. 22 So, again, with no objections, we

think that the settlement should be approved.

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I don't know if Your Honor has any

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1 other questions, or I'll move on to --
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- THE COURT: I don't think so. I think
- 3 I understand it.
- 4 MR. LEBOVITCH: We are seeking \$22-1/2
- 5 | million, which is 25 percent of just the cash, but
- 6 | that's not the way we really have tried to articulate
- 7 | the value and it's certainly not the way we approached
- 8 | it.
- 9 If you had just cash of \$90 million,
- 10 | there is a very significant fee that I think
- 11 | rightfully would and could be awarded. We believe
- 12 | that this council, because of its importance for this
- 13 | company and its novelty and, really, the thought and
- 14 tools that we provided it, so that it's not -- you
- 15 know, let me step back.
- Your Honor has seen what I'll call
- 17 | fake governance. Your Honor has seen things that
- 18 | don't really mean a whole lot. I believe -- and I
- 19 hope Your Honor sees that this was done by
- 20 professionals, and this is, we believe, as good as it
- 21 gets in terms of putting in place a structure. So we
- 22 | think that the structure itself would warrant a very
- 23 | significant fee.
- We tried to articulate in the papers

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that one way to look at it is, Okay, if I think that the Council would justify alone a fee of 10 to 15 million, what would be awarded on the 90 million? You could do it one way or the other, but it's almost a relationship. It's a sliding scale. And we think that a fair view of both elements of the settlement together, you know, could actually justify a more significant fee, but this is what we're seeking. We think that on the governance side, we cited the precedents, the Activision case, where there's a discussion about the value of the governance aspect of Activision. Vice Chancellor Laster said, Well, this is meaningful because you are limiting the ability of controllers to control, and so that has value.

We think that if you were to compare the terms, here, we have something at least as significant or, really, more significant. We have the Google case where there was, again, we think -- an \$8-1/2 million fee was awarded on relief that we don't think really was put together the way this was. I mentioned earlier the Yahoo! case, which was attacking a compensation scheme that would have created value in the event of a future sale of the company.

But, again, we think that this is really different. This is a huge company. There's precedent for saying, Well, let's see how big the company is to assess how much theoretical value there is.

Twenty-First Century Fox is a very large company, and being able to turn the page and show that the board is on top of these issues, and again, is taking their most important division from worst to first, that has, we believe, tremendous value. It can help with ongoing transactions.

You know, something that's not self-evident when you think about what happens if a company has a corrosive culture is it's not just the talent that comes and then, you know, leaves after years. It's the people who never get hired. Because you can only imagine what was going on when Roger Ailes was interviewing people. So there may be -- the leading talent at the competing network may have actually been happy to get the job at Fox News but said, No, I'm not going to do this. So improving the culture is not just about doing the right thing. It is actually good business. So, you know, we think this will help the company in so many ways.

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And then, you know, we talk about the time and effort put in. We -- again, a case can't have, you know, too many leaders in it. This was a unique situation where we had a lot of different firms getting involved, but it was under our guidance. people came together and really cooperated. And, you know, again, I don't want to go down the list, but I'm tempted to identify everyone who is here because people worked hard together for this cause. And, you know, we put in the numbers. There's a total lodestar. Not including the -- our submission, just so that Your Honor is clear, is up until about an hour before our brief got filed, our total lodestar included a portion of the Levi Korsinsky time. It was really only late on a Friday that we learned that they were not participating in the process. So the \$3.8 million of lodestar reflects all of the firms other than Levi & Korsinsky. So you can see that the numbers, the multipliers and the implied hourly rates, get adjusted accordingly if you then add the additional hours. THE COURT: So there's only one

question I have in this regard. I'm obviously too far removed from private practice. So this works out to a

But we really, in the last hour, had to -- we didn't

the multiplier. It's dot 5. You can do the math.

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have fee affidavits for all of the time, and there was 1 2 a lot of changes desperately done on a Friday night 3

and a brief that a lot of people looked at a lot of

times. I think in the end, the last editing -- you

5 know, so I apologize for that. It's an oversight.

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It's -- what we're asking for on a contingency basis is, yeah, about double or a little more than double the prevailing rates of many of the big defense firms.

I will highlight, Your Honor, that, look, we not only do this on a contingency but even the precedents, and we touch on this in one paragraph in our brief, even the precedents for historical multipliers awarded and implied hourlies that are awarded, I think -- I hope Your Honor agrees -- a lot of those were awarded at a different time in Delaware law.

And now, if what the Court wanted was to see people litigating hard and taking real risk and being willing to lose -- we don't like it, but we do. And I hope Your Honor knows that our firms, we are willing to take those risks. We do. We fought back from near death in some cases in front of Your Honor. But we do fight and we do take losses sometimes.

1 THE COURT: Whose death? Mine or 2 yours? 3 MR. LEBOVITCH: Ours. Ours. That was a reference to TIBCO, Your Honor. 4 5 THE COURT: I'm not so sure, at times. 6 MR. LEBOVITCH: That was our reference 7 to TIBCO. But in any event, it's hard, and you take 8 losses. So, yeah, if we're successful, I think that 9 hopefully the Court says, Yeah, you did a good job 10 here. You did what we want you to do, and we're going 11 to reward you. 12 And, really, the last point that I'll 13 make is, obviously, and we support this, hopefully 14 Your Honor thinks we're good at what we do and we're 15 responsible. Our adversary here, we touched on 16 earlier, it's hard to get anyone better than Richards 17 Layton and Mr. Varallo, but, also, Your Honor sees a 18 lot of the venom that happens in litigations, and it's 19 unfortunate. This could not have happened, this whole 20 process could not have happened, if you didn't have 21 people who could have an argument without hitting each 22 other, have a disagreement without slamming the door 23 and, frankly, trust, because it takes a lot of candor

to put this together. And I do want to commend that

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1 | for all parties involved.
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- 2 So unless Your Honor has questions
- 3 about that ---
- 4 THE COURT: I don't.
- 5 MR. LEBOVITCH: Okay. So I don't
- 6 know -- we discussed the issues about the L&K motion.
- 7 Our view is it's premature. Our view is there is a
- 8 | contract in place that's unambiguous, and there is a
- 9 process that's followed.
- 10 THE COURT: There is a line in Levi &
- 11 Korsinsky's brief that I'd like you to address.
- 12 | Basically, it says that their two clients are not
- 13 | signatories to the settlement agreement.
- Now, I did look back at the settlement
- 15 | agreement and I didn't see a hand signature for their
- 16 | firms, but I thought they were a party to this
- 17 | agreement. Am I mistaken about that?
- MR. LEBOVITCH: They're absolutely
- 19 parties to the agreement. They saw the agreement in
- 20 advance. And the whole act of signatures, there's a
- 21 lot of people involved, and when we were in the
- 22 | process of getting it done, it just -- who wants to
- 23 | get 15 more signatures? There's already enough
- 24 | signatures on it. That's it. Everyone in this room

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who was involved in the case saw it, reviewed it,
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 2
    approved it. I believe we have an e-mail confirming
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    it, so there is no ambiguity there.
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                    I don't know.
                                   There is really only
 5
    one point I would make on it. I would want to quote
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    Vice Chancellor Glasscock. I don't know if Your Honor
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    is aware but there was a prior situation where the
    Levi & Korsinsky firm tried to get what I call a
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    preallocation from the Court, you know, in other
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    words, get an allocation before there was a
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    settlement.
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                    THE COURT: I know what you're
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    referring to but I thought this may have been
    discussed in the brief. There's one of these cases
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    discussed in the brief, but maybe I'm merging them
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    together.
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                    MR. LEBOVITCH: Duke Energy.
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                    THE COURT: Yeah, Duke Energy.
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                    MR. LEBOVITCH: And I just want to
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    quote the three sentences that Vice Chancellor
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    Glasscock said in deciding that the contract will
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    control and that I think it was the Prickett Jones
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    firm would do the allocation and then people could
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come back if there was a problem.

1 This is a quote from a transcript 2 that's page 44. We can submit it if Your Honor likes. 3 Vice Chancellor Glasscock says, and I quote, "I am 4 being asked to allocate in the first instance this fee 5 award. I would prefer not to. I would prefer not to 6 for two reasons. The first, I think, like every 7 judge, I dislike litigation about litigation. second is that however I decide this, it will have 8 9 incentive effects that may or may not be pernicious." 10 And we don't like litigation about 11 I think Your Honor is aware that it's litigation. 12 rare for anything like this to happen, and in fact, 13 it's very rare for the Court to ever see a fight even 14 after a settlement is approved and a fee is awarded. And it's because we kind of all have to live with each 15 16 other and people -- ultimately, you know, the merits 17 prevail. 18 But here, there is a contract, and I 19 will just stress that to obviate or sidestep the 20 contract would actually create I think a lot of 21 pernicious incentives. And so, you know, I would 22 reserve if there is further argument about the issue 23 but I think that Your Honor knows the law of ripeness. 24 You know, another issue that I've litigated before

Your Honor. I don't think this is a close call. 1 issue isn't ripe. We should get to perform under the 2 3 contract. 4 If the settlement is approved and the 5 fee is approved, we would allocate pursuant to the 6 contract. And then if there is a dispute, we've 7 already said we would put disputed amounts in escrow 8 and we can deal with it. But, you know, I don't think -- I would hope the Court doesn't have a lot of 9 10 interest in enmeshing itself in those type of issues. 11 But if Your Honor has no more 12 questions, I just want to reserve to respond if 13 there's further argument. 14 THE COURT: You may, and you'll have 15 that opportunity if it's necessary. 16 Mr. Varallo? 17 MR. VARALLO: Good afternoon, 18 Chancellor. Gregory Varallo for all defendants other 19 than the estate of Mr. Ailes, which is represented 20 today by Mr. Bracegirdle. 21 Your Honor, I will say two things. 22 The \$200 million damages point, I think Mr. Lebovitch

disagreement among the parties about that number.

had it absolutely correct that there was a substantial

23

THE COURT: Right. 1 2 MR. VARALLO: My client views it very 3 differently the plaintiffs did, and we made that 4 clear, and that was an important part of the 5 negotiation. From our point of view, the \$90 million 6 actually represents quite a bit more, a larger 7 percentage of the damages that could be proved. And I think from the insurer's point of view, it's probably 8 9 a premium to the damages that could be proved. 10 The other thing I'll say, I take a 11 moment of personal privilege to say we have in the 12 courtroom with us today Mr. Max Berger from the 13 Bernstein Litowitz firm. And I have to say, Your 14 Honor, that without Mr. Berger's leadership and 15 Mr. Lebovitch's leadership, Mr. Grant's leadership, 16 Mr. Barry's leadership, and the hard work of all of 17 the plaintiffs in this firm -- not only in this firm 18 but in this room -- we wouldn't be here today. And I 19 have to say as well, we would have been in a worse 20 place: a worse place for my client, a worse place for society, more broadly. 21 22 And I know we all come here in an 23 unusual circumstance, but it's a circumstance the

Court should commend, because by virtue of the

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leadership of the folks on this side of the room --
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    and I don't think I've ever used those words in the
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    same sentence before -- but by virtue of that
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    leadership and by virtue --
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                    THE COURT: Feeling generous today,
 6
    Mr. Varallo?
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                    MR. VARALLO: By virtue of the larger
    group having collaborated so well together under that
 8
 9
    leadership, we got to a result that really is a
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    special result for the company. And so I stand up to
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    join in asking the Court to approve the settlement,
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    and I appreciate Your Honor's time.
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                    THE COURT: I do have one quick
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    question for you. I could be off base in thinking
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    about it this way, but I looked quickly at the release
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    before I came up. Does the release in any way impede
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    your client, the entity, the company, if it so wished,
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    from pursuing recourse from the Ailes estate? Maybe
19
    that's all wrapped up. I don't know. Or other people
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    that could have underlying liability associated with
21
    some of these events?
22
                    MR. VARALLO: I believe that the
23
    language of the release would preclude the company
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from pursuing against the Ailes estate for matters

pertaining -- that were covered by or could have been 1 covered by this litigation. 2 3 THE COURT: Which the D&O carriers 4 would presumably insist upon. 5 MR. VARALLO: Your Honor, there is a 6 long story there. I would prefer to go off -- well, I 7 would prefer to be on the record in camera if we 8 could, if Your Honor would like to pursue it. But in 9 candor, yes, we have given up our right to pursue the 10 Ailes estate for these matters.

We have not given up our right to pursue others who are not covered by that release; and there could be such other persons.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you.

MR. VARALLO: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Bracegirdle, I don't

18 know if you had anything you wanted to add or not.

MS. GULETTA: Your Honor, Thad

20 Bracegirdle on behalf of the Ailes estate. Nothing

21 beyond what Mr. Varallo has said to the Court.

Thank you.

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THE COURT: Very well.

First of all, I want to know, are

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1 | there any objectors in the courtroom?
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- Just for the record, there are not.
- Ms. Miller, were you seeking to be
- 4 heard?
- 5 MS. MILLER: If the Court want to hear
- 6 from me, I have something prepared to say.
- 7 THE COURT: Briefly. I'll let you
- 8 speak briefly.
- 9 MR. DUPRE: Your Honor, I should say,
- 10 as Delaware counsel, Andrew Dupre, McCarter & English.
- 11 It's my pleasure to introduce Ms. Miller.
- 12 THE COURT: I'll just say from the
- 13 | outset, Ms. Miller, just to orient you, I am inclined
- 14 to have you work through the process that is set forth
- 15 | in the contract. That is sort of my direction, which
- 16 I think makes sense.
- 17 I was a little surprised to see the
- 18 | reference to -- the nonsignatory reference in a way
- 19 | that -- I mean, the only reason to say something like
- 20 | that is to, like, disavow that it binds you or your
- 21 firm. Are you contending that?
- MS. MILLER: No, I'm not contending
- 23 | that. I think the point of that was just to go along
- 24 | with the point of everything else, that if you weren't

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Monroe's counsel, then you weren't getting the
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    opportunity to have your client sign any documents,
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    verify any complaint, or anything like that. I think
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    that was the point of that. That had nothing to do
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    with saying that we weren't supporting the settlement
 6
    or anything like that.
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                    THE COURT: I'm sorry. Who is
    Monroe's client?
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 9
                    MS. MILLER: It is Bernstein Litowitz.
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                    THE COURT: Or whose firm represents
11
    Monroe?
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                    MS. MILLER: Grant & Eisenhofer and
13
    Bernstein Litowitz.
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                    THE COURT: They both do.
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                    MS. MILLER: Yes.
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                    THE COURT: Like I said, I think you
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    sort of know what my inclination is, but if you want
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    to speak briefly, I will give you the opportunity.
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                    MS. MILLER: Okay. I will be very,
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    very brief, then.
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                    I, of course, think that the contract
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    doesn't apply in this situation because it doesn't
23
    cover this situation because I do not believe that the
24
    co-lead counsel can decide Levi & Korsinsky's fee in
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good faith.

But I do want to focus on one thing that's been represented to the Court. When we asked for our \$1.5 million fee request, we did the math, and that comes out to \$625 per hour of an implied hourly rate. And if you were to award that fee to us, then you would know exactly what Levi & Korsinsky is going to get paid on an hourly basis.

You just heard co-lead counsel stand up here and say that basically they're seeking a fee of about \$4,000 per hour if they get paid on what they're seeking. But to us, we don't believe that's a fair representation of what is actually going to get paid, unless all of the hours are going to be treated accordingly, meaning that everyone is going to get paid that \$4,000 per hour for all of their hours.

If that's not the way that it's going to work, then co-lead counsel should tell you, We're actually going to take whatever, \$20,000 an hour, and these people are going to get paid \$500 an hour. We think that that would be an accurate way to represent the lodestar if that's what it really is.

And that's what we want to say, is that we are happy if the co-lead counsel are going to

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1	stand by their representation and say everyone is
2	entitled to the same hourly rate. We put in more
3	hours, so we get more of the hourly rate.
4	THE COURT: Are you suggesting they
5	made such a representation?
6	MS. MILLER: I think their brief does.
7	I think their brief tells you that this is the hourly
8	rate that everyone is going to get paid. And that
9	you know, if that's not what they're doling out, then
10	that isn't accurate.
11	THE COURT: I'm pretty confident
12	that's not what that part of the brief says.
13	MS. MILLER: Okay. Well, we thought
14	that that was an important distinction.
15	And if you have any questions about
16	anything, then I'm happy to answer them.
17	Otherwise
18	THE COURT: I don't.
19	MS. MILLER: Okay. Thank you for your
20	time.
21	THE COURT: All right.
22	Anything else from your side?
23	MR. GRANT: Nothing else, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. So let me talk for

a few minutes about this. Fortunately, I don't have to do the stuff I often have to do at settlement, which is go through all the class elements. Because this is a derivative case, it simplifies things.

I will commend everyone in the room on what happened here. It's pretty unusual, not entirely unprecedented, the prepackaged settlement. But there definitely were sensitivities here that make it, from everything I can see, a really sensible, practical way to resolve a pretty sticky situation. And so for that, I commend you for doing it and bringing it to the Court the way you did.

I obviously wasn't there along the way, so I take everyone's word who spoke sort of glowingly -- recognizing, I'm sure, there were lots of intramural fights along the way -- about the level of cooperation that was exhibited on both sides to get to the point of actually getting this done. So on that, I commend you.

I think the settlement is an excellent settlement. I looked through the therapeutic benefits. Obviously, I misread the termination provision but, otherwise, I think I have the thrust of the settlement. And there's real meaning to the

Council, and, of course, there is always the cash. 1 the other side of the ledger, the claims are 2 3 ultimately Caremark claims, which are very hard to 4 prove. 5 It's very hard to quantify these types 6 of benefits. I thought about asking for some 7 affidavit or something that would give me some notion 8 on that. I know when that's been done in the past, 9 sometimes they've been less helpful than more helpful. 10 And it is difficult to do it. But I think the fee 11 award in the aggregate is fair. 12 I'm not going to parse it finely. 13 doesn't fit in the natural framework of our ranges, 14 depending on where the case is, because everything was 15 done prefiling. There was some level of deposition 16 activity and certainly a lot of interviews and other 17 things that were going on here. 18 So I think the amount is appropriate; 19 the settlement, I think, is an excellent settlement; 20 and I'm going to approve both. 21 With respect to the Levi & Korsinsky 22 matter, I am going to give you a few points of

matter, I am going to give you a few points of guidance, but I think the right way to handle it is to go through the process of the good-faith discussion

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that needs to occur under the provision of the settlement agreement. But good faith means good faith.

And a couple things: I will want you to escrow a million and a half of the settlement amount pending the outcome of that.

I truly do want a dialogue. I think what people need to recognize -- I'll sort of make two comments to hopefully inform the discussion when it occurs.

I think, Ms. Miller, your firm -- you know, I'm probably one of the few judges, maybe the only one, that's been in the secret sweat lodge of some of this in my days in private practice. I think you would be naive to think there's going to be equivalence between the people that took the leadership role and the manner of compensation. It's not some pro rata exercise, and I think you'd be naive to think that.

But I also want the plaintiffs, the lead folks, to truly exercise good faith and to recognize that if this comes back to me, which I hope it never does, I'm going to need sunlight on where every dollar went in the settlement, who got paid

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    what, what the multipliers were for every firm, and
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    what the justification is of the treatment down the
 3
    road.
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                    I never want to see it, frankly. And
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    I wouldn't rule out assigning this to some sort of
    Master to deal with the situation. I don't know. I
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 7
    haven't thought about it that deeply. I really hope
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    that it can be resolved and would strongly encourage
 9
    you to resolve it.
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                    So I think I probably need to do a
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    modification of the form of order that reflects the
12
    last part of what I said.
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                    The order should be on the system.
14
    Right? The final order? I imagine it is.
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                    MR. GRANT: Yes, Your Honor.
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                    THE COURT: And if it's not, somebody
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    from my chambers will call you soon to let you know
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    that, but I'm pretty sure it is. And I'll enter it,
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    and I'll put a modification in reflecting what I just
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    said about how we're going to handle the Levi &
21
    Korsinsky matter.
22
                    Does anybody have any questions for
23
    me?
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MR. GRANT: No, Your Honor.